The Southern PATRIOT

Volume 2 | Nashville, Tennessee, January, 1944 | Number 1

TRENDS

The Tobacco Workers Organizing Committee of UCAPAWA-CIO won bargaining rights for all of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's (Camels, Prince Albert, etc.) 12,000 workers at Winston-Salem by a vote of two to one, polling 6,882 votes. The R. J. Reynolds Employee Asso. (company union) polled 3,175 votes, no union 301. The election followed a series of court actions by the company union that succeeded in getting two injunctions restraining the NLRB from holding the elections.

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Congress appropriated $85,000 last year to meet the deficits of the Capital restaurants, thus permitting them to keep down the price of meals for Congressmen. This amounts to a subsidy of $160 per year for each of the 531 members. Donald Montgomery, consumer counsel for the UAW-CIO, cited this subsidy in his testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and asked why it was proper to subsidize food costs of Congressmen but wrong to apply this same principle to all consumers.

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The Senate has shelved Federal aid for education, but only 2 out of 10 persons in the United States are opposed to such aid, according to a survey by the National Opinion Research Center.

The question asked was:

"Would you be in favor of or be against having the Federal Government turn over a certain amount of money to the states every year for their schools?"

YES	69%
QUALIFIED ANSWER	3%
NO	18%
UNDECIDED	10%

More than twice as many Republicans as Democrats oppose Federal aid. Sectionally, the Midwest shows the greatest opposition (23%), in contrast to only 11% in the South.

Migration of Negroes to the north, estimated at 120,000 in 1942, is now estimated at 250,000 to 300,000 and the peak has not been reached, according to a study by Fisk University.

The South's Responsibility For Republican Victories

Recent Republican victories, including even Kentucky, are additional confirmation of President Roosevelt's axiom that the Democrats can hope for success in national politics only as a liberal party. The reactionary bloc of southern Senators and Congressmen who have played the Republican game since 1933 have at the same time been undermining the future of the Democratic party. They have not hesitated to join up with Republicans against a liberal measure, whether it was to provide relief for starving civilians or votes for soldiers risking their lives at the front. The South which elects these men stands to gain by a liberal government more than any other part of the country, and it is therefore not only the Democratic Party but the South itself which is being betrayed by representatives who look for guidance and support to large northern corporations rather than to the people of the South.

After trying for six years to convince southern leaders in Congress that the New Deal was not only necessary for the country but the best policy for the South, President Roosevelt decided on the bold course of making the matter a Party issue in the primaries of 1938. In New York he was successful in ridding the Party of one of its most reactionary members, but in the South the people were not prepared to follow the President against the state machines. In Georgia, for example, most of the President's own appointees did not support his candidate.

End of the New Deal

The failure of this brave attempt on the President's part was the real end of the New Deal. Very little was heard of it after that time. Aid to Britain required more and more concessions to Congress by the President. By 1942 Harry Hopkins, the chief hatchet man of 1938, went so far as to say that it made no difference whether the people elected Republicans or Democrats, so long as those elected supported the President's foreign policy. The failure of the President and his Administration to hold out a liberal program to the voters has naturally caused his liberal supporters to become apathetic and his reactionary enemies more aggressive.

Appeasing the Poll Taxers

With Senator George of Georgia dictating the financial policy of the government, Senators Byrd of Virginia, Bailey of North Carolina and Smith of South Carolina attacking every liberal measure (not to mention Senators Connally, O'Daniel, McKellar, Eastland *et al*), what hope can the liberals of the country have from the Democratic Party? As if the reputation which this Senatorial group gives the Party were not bad enough, House leaders such as Cox of Georgia and Dies of Texas have been practically unhampered by the Administration in their efforts to drive from the Government all those men who supported President Roosevelt's effort to establish a liberal government. The Justice Department has not even prosecuted Congressman Cox, although he has confessed before the House

(Continued on Page 2.)

The South's Responsibility

(Continued from Page 1.)

of Representatives that he received a check of $2,500 from a radio station, in clear contravention of the law.

Soldiers' Vote Bill

Although President Roosevelt has been unable to integrate the Democrats into a liberal Party, there is still a possibility that continued political reverses will persuade those Senators and Congressmen who are elected in states where the electorate is not minimized by the poll tax that a liberal party is their only hope for national political power. In fact the recent fight in the Senate over the Lucas-Green Bill to give soldiers the vote, indicates the likelihood of an early split between the Senators who must be elected on their record and those who have only to control a small number of votes with the help of poll tax machinery.

Since the Soldiers Vote issue is merely a curtain raiser for the much more intense fight over the poll tax it may fairly be expected that tempers will be even shorter and words more violent in the debate to come. Yet it is hard to see how the strain can be greatly increased and the Party remain as half-liberal-half-reactionary. Senator Byrd's abandonment of Senatorial amenities in his denunciation of Senator Guffey, was followed shortly by the threat from Senator Bailey that "they might drive us out but they would never again elect a President of the United States on the Democratic ticket. We can form a Southern Democratic Party and vote as we please and we can hold the balance of power."

"Republicanism, Reaction, Ruin"

In that threat Bailey disclosed the serious situation which has wrecked the New Deal, spoiled the chances of the Democratic Party for continued power after Roosevelt, and opened the way for Republicanism, reaction and ruin. It is a threat which was not new to Roosevelt as it has been in effect the situation for some time. The Southern Democratic group now holds the balance of power and they have thrown their weight to the Republicans rather than to the liberal Democrats.

If Senator Bailey wishes to avoid the fate of his predecessor, who supported Hoover against Al Smith and was promptly defeated by Bailey, he had better be sure that the people of North Carolina will vote against their interests in 1946. Apparently Senators Bailey, Smith and Byrd are confident that the people of the South will continue to elect reactionary Senators. Apparently they feel sure that again the South will vote against its own best interests because of some Negro scare that will be manufactured at the appropriate time.

The South's Opportunity

So if these Senators can impose their will on the Administration, who is there to say that they won't also dominate the southern voters? Only the voters can protect the interests of the South against the big northern corporations and their agents.

The South has the opportunity this year of showing the reactionary Senators that they can not kick the best interests of a great region around for their own petty gain. The southern voters have a chance of making the Democratic Party a liberal party, and thereby of saving it as a national party. The South furthermore this year has the chance of improving her condition by electing representatives and Senators who will vote in accordance with the best interests of the people and who will not promote reaction in America while opposing it abroad.

CLARK H. FOREMAN.

Low Wages Causes 'Athens of the South' To Lose Teachers

Citizens of Nashville, which likes to assume the title, "Athens of the South," received a rude shock to learn that city school teachers are so underpaid that over 200 Nashville teachers have resigned in the past 2 years. This does not include teachers in the military service.

Schools May Close

Because of the teacher shortage, every day at least one classroom, and one day 8 classrooms, were without a teacher. Resignations are continuing at an "alarming rate," said Mr. William Hume, chairman of the city board of education, "and if not checked some of the city schools will be forced to close their doors within the year."

Nashville starts its teachers at $1,200 per year ($23 per week), and the median salary is only $1,450 per year. Salaries are from 20% to 30% below that of other cities of the same size. Teachers salaries in Memphis, New Orleans, Louisville, and Atlanta are about 40% higher than Nashville.

The expenditure per pupil per year in Nashville is only $61.67, compared to $80 per pupil in Atlanta, Dallas and Fort Worth. Only 23% of the tax dollar in Nashville is allocated for public schools, while other Southern cities spend 30% to 50% of their tax income for education.

A Modest Demand

To meet this crisis the board of education is asking a modest increase in the allotment of funds for education to permit an annual increase of $50 per year for 16 years to a maximum of $2,000. This will still be 10% to 15% lower than leading Southern cities, and about 30% lower than the United States average of $2,625.

TRENDS

The average consumer of TVA power used 53% more electricity than the average consumer in the Nation and paid 18% less during the fiscal year 1943. According to the report of Gordon R. Clapp, TVA general manager, the average TVA family used 1,598 kilowatts during the year against 1,044 for the average national consumer and paid a rate of 1.96 against 3.66 for the Nation. The TVA consumer's bill was only $31.32 as against $38.21 for the Nation.

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As part of its fight for a lasting peace based on international cooperation and economic justice, a house-to-house campaign of every Methodist home in the Nation is being planned by a group of Methodist leaders including Bishop Paul D. Kern of Nashville. Methodists will be urged to write to the President and to their Congressmen. They will not be told what to write concerning the peace, but they will be told how to write such letters. The campaign will end on March 26th with a day of consecration.

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SOUTHEASTERN FEPC NEEDS SUPPORT

The Southeastern regional office of the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee has been opened in Atlanta with Mr. A. Bruce Hunt, director. Action by the Atlanta city council in petitioning Georgia Congressmen for removal of the office should be promptly offset by a flood of letters from Georgia's enlightened citizens who must understand that the work of this Committee is not only of the greatest importance to war production, to the implementing of our democratic institutions, but will contribute vigorously to the economic development of the South. What could be more important than the integrating into the productive economic life of the South of a third of our population?

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Not so long ago "Collective Bargaining" in Gadsden, Ala., was done at the end of a night stick. The only "collective" aspect was the mass beating of union members and sympathizers by goon squads in the Goodyear Rubber plant. Now Goodyear, Bethlehem steel, the huge Dwight textile mill and other plants have been brought within the orbit of orderly and democratic collective bargaining. Local 12 of the URWA-CIO has signed a contract establishing maintenance of membership and check-off. Vacation pay for male employees was raised from $15 to $18, women from $10 to $14, and vacation pay for Negroes from $8 to $18.

Georgia Briefs

FARMERS' UNION AGAIN ACTIVE

Once a powerful organization of a hundred thousand members in the state of Georgia, the Farmers' Union had been dormant for several years until last fall. Beginning around Lula, Ga., with the Lula School as a source of information and inspiration, the farm people are again organizing themselves into the National Farmers Union. Six locals have been chartered—in Banks, Hall and Habersham counties.

Early in December Aubrey Williams, representing the National Farmers' Union in the east and south, spent a week with D. L. West, Supt. of the Lula High School, and in charge of the organization in Georgia. Mr. Williams spoke at Macedonia Church near Clarksville, Ga., to a group of farmers, after which a new local was organized. He spoke at five other different communities. The last meeting was at Lula School auditorium where he spoke to some 200 people. Mr. Ed Yeomans, Lamar Barfoot and William Vitorelli of West Georgia College, Carrollton, with three farmers from their section, attended. Also Morris Mitchel and several farm people from around Clarksville were there.

The local union at Lula has already begun work on building cooperatives with a new syrup mill, and a hammer feed mill added to the community cannery. Plans are now under way for constructing a potato curing house.

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GEORGIA FASCISTS

Gene Talmadge, though defeated in the last race for governor, still publishes his paper, THE STATESMAN, and still speaks at meetings of the Ku Klux Klan.

Recently Ralph McGill, progressive editor of the ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, took Gene to task for his speech to the Ku Klux Klan conclave at Porterdale. McGill deplored Gene's Jew baiting, Catholic and Negro baiting, and pointed out that all these groups had made constructive contributions to southern life. In a long letter from Talmadge, which McGill published in the CONSTITUTION, we find the usual Talmadge line. After attacking McGill for not writing in support of the Southern Railroad in its violation of the FEPC in discrimination against Negroes, Talmadge evidently feels that he has completely annihilated McGill by accusing him of being a member of the Inter-Urban League," which, he says, means "Interracial-League."

In the pages of the STATESMAN Talmadge has been making a special campaign against the book "Under Cover," by John Roy Carlson. He prints articles by such reactionaries as Clare E. Hoffman of Michigan against the book. Anyone reading the book can easily see why, for it exposes the very kind of thing Talmadge stands for, and links Gene himself with these undercover unAmerican groups.

Gene is doing a good job in the way Huey Long said fascism might come to America,—fighting the president and all pro-war moves in the name of upholding democracy.

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COUNTY AGENT ABUSES FRANKING PRIVILEGE; FORCED TO RESIGN

In many places, in violation of the law, Extension Service county agents are virtually agents for the reactionary Farm Bureau. This was the case with County Agent L. C. Rew of Hall County, Georgia, until the Federal Government took a hand and declared Mr. Rew's illegal activities must cease. He was deprived of his free franking privilege by the P. O. Dept., and suspended from the Federal payroll.

County Agent Rew had called a meeting for the Farm Bureau, using government franked envelopes for circulating the calls. While this has been a common practice over the country, this was the first instance of any effective action being taken by the government to correct the illegal Extension-Farm Bureau hookup.

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FARM BUREAU LAMBASTED FOR OPPOSING SUBSIDIES

In a long editorial article the ATLANTA JOURNAL took the Georgia Farm Bureau to task for its opposition to subsidies. Subsidies, according to the Farm Bureau are "un-American," but the JOURNAL points out that "subsidies" are not new in American life. In fact "the very first general law that passed the First Congress was a subsidy act. It was a protective tariff which subsidized manufactures. Another act of that Congress was a shipping subsidy."

"The administration's subsidy plan," said the JOURNAL, would be a practical means by which the Nation could obtain the needed increase in food production without removal of the present high level ceilings on the products required. It is a vital essential to prevent a disastrous inflation spiral."

Letters to the PATRIOT

WILLKIE AGAINST POLL TAX

To the Editor:

My position on the poll tax is well known. I have repeatedly stated my views. On a nation-wide broadcast on July twenty-fourth, I said: "They (the Negro people) have a right—as has every citizen—to the elimination of all arbitrary restrictions on voting, through taxation or otherwise."

I believe that any measure which deprives any group of citizens of our country from the exercise of their inherent rights, as established by the Constitution of the United States, is harmful to all citizens.

WENDELL L. WILLKIE,
New York.

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FOR THE PATRIOT'S CHRISTMAS STOCKING

To the Editor:

"I think that you are doing such a fine job and The SOUTHERN PATRIOT is such an excellent paper that both of you deserve a Christmas present. I am therefore enclosing a small check which can be used for any purpose you like.

Best wishes for continued success and a fine 1944.

MRS. ROGER A. LEWIS,
Bethesda, Md.

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'APPRECIATION'

To the Editor:

I wish to express to you and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare a genuine word of appreciation and gratitude for the campaign which you are making to implement the Four Freedoms at home and abroad.

CHARLES HENRY HAYNES,
Talladega College,
Talladega, Ala.

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LIKED WALLACE'S SPEECH

To the Editor:

This reader liked the November PATRIOT, especially "the fine and informing speech of Henry Wallace."

". . . Our local FOR had an interesting and delightful lecture and concert program at the central YWCA featuring James Farmer and Mrs. Rosa Page Welch, who sang spirituals and selections from the religious classics. The audience did not fill the hall. I was impressed with the melancholy truth that the poor, backward, or unalive white people don't have any idea of what they are missing in holding aloof from these lovable and gifted fellow Americans of darker complexion.

ALICE M. DOREN,
Dayton, Ohio.

HELPS EXPLAIN SOUTHERN PROBLEMS

To the Editor:

Lately I have had some correspondence with a person living in New England and I sent her a copy of your splendid publication hoping it might enlighten her regarding the difficulties we are facing in our part of the United States. I do believe that your fine work in the SOUTHERN PATRIOT is very helpful to the enlightenment of other parts of our country.

MRS. CHARLES H. BEHRE,
New Orleans, La.

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ABOLISH POLL TAX BUT BY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

To the Editor:

". . . The propsed legislation (H.R. 7) only applies to the election of members of Congress, Senators and presidential electors. If it is passed and stands the test of the courts, it will cause endless confusion and extra expense of holding separate elections to select federal and state officers in states which have poll tax laws, and it will not give a free ballot to all citizens in all elections.

"I fought the adoption of the poll tax in my state and have been fighting for its repeal ever since, but when it is knocked out I want it to be killed completely so that it can never be revived. The only way to do it is by constitutional amendment."

Sincerely yours,
E. C. FORBES,
Greenwood, Ark.

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'ENTHUSIASTIC READERS'

To the Editor:

Congratulations on the last edition of The PATRIOT. Mine is pretty well worn by enthusiastic readers, mainly aircraft workers, and musicians of Local Union No. 47. . . . Please send me more copies.

DON CHRISTLIEB,
Los Angeles, Calif.

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GAINED 10 POUNDS— LIKES IT FINE

To the Editor:

Landed here on Dec. 7. Had one stiff stretch of 2 weeks' workout on mountains, drilling and winter swimming, and have come out 10 pounds ahead. Like it fine. Tell our mutual friends hello for me and give them my address. Suggest they drop a note.

HOWARD LEE, AS
Sect. S4-1, USMSTS,
Avalon, Calif.

(Pvt.) Robert Hardy, after several weeks in a hospital, is back on duty. Address: 480th Air Base Squadron, Mobile, Ala.

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Joel Seidman is an instructor at the Army Air Base, Lincoln, Neb. Address:
(PVT.) JOEL SEIDMAN, ASN 36750192,
41 TG-PP,
Army Air Base, Lincoln 1, Neb.

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The largest single contribution to the Memphis Community War Chest was made by workers at the Firestone plant represented by United Rubber Workers —CIO. In a drive conducted jointly by Local 186 URWA (R. H. Roubton, president) and the company, Firestone workers contributed $20,846.73. Total amount given by employees and the firm was $27,280.

After diligent efforts by all of the higher officials of the War Chest had failed to elicit a favorable response at Sefton Fibre Can Company, Memphis, Local 239, president Kate Davis and a union committee turned the trick. Over $6,500 was given by the employees of the plant. There was no contribution from the company.

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The North Carolina Council of Churches voted unanimously to invite all Negro denominations of the state to participate in the Council on an equal basis with the white membership. Bishop Edwin A. Penick, retiring president of the Council, and Dr. J. R. Cunningham, president-elect and president of Davidson College, supported the action of the Council.

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GET THAT NAZI!

This youngster's fighting instincts come to him naturally. His father, Sgt. Martin Watkins, now with the Yanks in Italy, is an alumnus of the University of North Carolina, a former intercollegiate boxing champion and sometime organizer for the CIO in Tennessee.

The Southern PATRIOT

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EDITOR
JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI

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Phalanx of Reaction

The second session of the 78th Congress begins January 10.

Looking back at the record of the first session gives no comfort to the little man in Southern states eager to get on with this war to destroy Fascism at home and abroad.

There were a few encouraging high lights. During the closing days of the session, for example, Sen. Pepper of Florida stood up to defend the heroes of our merchant marine against the sniping of Sen. Brooks; Sen. Barkley of Kentucky fought stoutly for the right of soldiers to vote, a fight which Rep. Kefauver and Rep. Priest promised to carry on in the House; Sen. Hill of Alabama spoke brilliantly for Federal aid in education.

With a few notable exceptions, Southerners formed a solid phalanx of reaction. They sold out the small farmer by attempting to kill FSA,—that hit at 3 million families of small farmers eager to produce more food-for-freedom. They sought to destroy labor with the Smith-Connally Bill,—that was aimed at 4 out of 5 production workers. They threatened to send living costs soaring upward in an inflation spiral,—and that hits just about all of us.

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Appease the Rich Bludgeon the Poor

Poised for the kill whenever legislation favorable to the little man was under consideration, Southern Congressmen were in there fighting when the interests of the big planter and the big corporations were at stake. Recently when the insurance companies were indicted in Atlanta for violating Federal anti-trust laws, Southerners jumped to throw a bill into the Congressional hopper exempting insurance companies from anti-trust laws.

Sen. George of Georgia opposed increased taxes on corporation profits, but gave the nod to sales taxes that bear most heavily on the poor. Sen. Byrd of Virginia, the Nation's largest grower of apples, had his "economy" hatchet out for everything, including essential war agencies,—everything except the price of apples.

The obstructionist and reactionary records of Reynolds of North Carolina, "Cotton Ed" Smith of South Carolina, "Pappy" O'Daniel of Texas and others, is too well known to require comment.

To their disgraceful record, the vote of 19 Southern Senators scuttling the Lucas-Green Soldiers' Vote Bill was a fitting climax.

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Grass-Roots-South Not Represented

Observing our Southern Congressmen as they appease the rich and the powerful, bludgeon the poor and the weak, attack the Administration's necessary war measures,—pondering on these things, the little man of the South reaches an inescapable conclusion: Southern Congressmen do not represent the grass-roots-South, the 80% comprising dirt farmers, small business men, shipbuilders, factory workers, miners, teachers, professional workers, and the small salaried men and women.

Southern Congressmen do not represent us in our deep desire to back up our fighting men on the home front, in our support of the Commander-in-Chief, in our willingness to accept cheerfully price controls, rationing, and all the many other inconvenient but necessary war measures incidental to a final, smashing and complete victory over the forces of reaction and Fascism.

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Little Men Organize

There are indications that the little people of the South are mobilizing to change this state of affairs.

In Arkansas, Texas, Georgia and elsewhere the Farmers Union and the AFL, CIO, Railway Brotherhoods are setting up machinery for joint political action.

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Industrial Workers' Role

This is more significant today than ever before. With the mushroom growth of war industry in the South, labor is destined to play an important political role in the elections of 1944. In Tennessee, according to figures just released by the Department of Labor, there were 292,000 workers eligible for job insurance in January, 1940. Now that figure has increased to 650,000. These figures are typical of the entire South.

In many Congressional districts today the number of industrial workers far exceeds the number of votes cast in the last Congressional elections. Rep. Cox of Georgia has 3 times as many industrial workers in his district as there were votes cast in his 1942 elections (3,794). There are more workers in one industry (oil) in the Texas district of Rep. Dies than there were votes in his 1942 election (10,000).

'Quotes'

ROOTS IN THE EARTH, By P. ALSTON WARING and WALTON MAGNES TELLER. Harper & Bros., N. Y., 1943. 202 pp., $2.50.

Contentment

"There are deep satisfactions in this life on the land when the basic necessities are cared for, when fear is gone and security has been established.

Realities

"Of the 6,000,000 farm families (¼ of the total population) in the last census year, 1940, nearly 4,000,000 (2 out of 3) had an average value of products sold, traded, and used at home of less than $1,000, and 1,500,000 of these families had gross incomes of $600 or less.

FSA and the Farm Bloc

"Back of the fight is this question: Shall the government aid 3,000,000 farm families to keep going and expand production on their farms or shall it allow them to be driven off their farms in order to supply cheap labor for 200,000 big farmers?

In addition to fighting the FSA "the Farm Bureau is against price control, against unions, against closed shops, and for the extension of the work week. This is a program to aid manufacturers, not farmers. It is part of a deal whereby the Farm Bureau does not attack wartime profits and the NA.M. does not attack food prices. But both attack labor.

Abundance For All

"Their (farmers) only hope lies in changes that will bring abundance to all people . . . we can have all-out production and all-out consumption.

The War

"There is the likelihood that the war, before it is over, will take all of us in America deep down and prepare us to cope more intelligently and wisely with the future. There is a chance that we will build a new agriculture based on permanence and in which there will be a place for the common man to make his life on small farms throughout the land."

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Read this book!—The best book we have read on the problems of agriculture and especially of the small farmer, of his practical day-to-day problems, of his part in producing food-for-fresdom, and of his potential contribution in building a new world. Read it!—Then let us know what you think of it.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Georgia Editor

HENRY W. GRADY, By RAYMOND B. NIXON. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1943. xxvi + 350 pp., $4.00.

On November 7, 1884, a crowd of excited citizens of Atlanta, Georgia, climaxed a parade through the city streets by storming the State Legislature. Brushing past the doorkeeper, the leader advanced down the aisle and announced:

> "'Mr. Speaker! A message from the American people.' The House rose, and the column marched toward the Speaker's stand, with drums beating and colors flying. Mounting the rostrum (the leader) seized the gavel from the hands of the presiding officer. He rapped for order, then proclaimed: 'In the name of God and the American people, I declare this House adjourned to celebrate the election of Grover Cleveland, the first Democratic President in twenty-four years!'"

Central figure in this dramatic episode was Henry W. Grady, editor, orator, promoter, political strategist. As a newspaper man, Mr. Grady made the Atlanta Constitution a national institution.

As the eloquent spokesman of an industrialized South, and advocate of a protective tariff, Grady was the fair-haired boy of Northern capitalists looking with covetous eyes on the South. He was invited to address the stuffed shirts in the 81st Anniversary Celebration of the New England Society in the City of New York where he delivered his famous address, "The New South," December 23, 1886.

Mr. Grady welcomed the decision of the United States Supreme Court in 1883 declaring the Civil Rights Act of 1875 unconstitutional, thus paving the way for the South's segregation laws. But he was an advocate of "equal opportunities" and urged federal aid to improve Negro schools.

Mr. Grady, like Mr. William Jennings Bryan, was a spellbinder, and, like Mr. Bryan, not a particularly profound man. It is doubtful if he will long be remembered. Professor Nixon's admirable study, however, is much more notable than his subject. He has presented Mr. Grady against a rich background of contemporary economic and social fact. The resulting document is a valuable contribution to Southern letters that undoubtedly will receive wide recognition.

Women Are Funny That Way

WHY WOMEN CRY Or Wenches With Wrenches. By ELIZABETH HAWES. Reynal & Hitchcock, New York, 1943. 215 pp., $2.50.

Elizabeth Hawes, like Heywood Broun, Oscar Ameringer and Art Young, is one of those rare persons who can deal in an uproarious fashion with the most serious subject matter. In this book she makes you weak with laughter but leaves you with some very stimulating and thought provoking ideas. As America's leading dress designer, Miss Hawes knows the fabulously rich; as a newspaper woman and worker in an airplane factory she also knows the Common Woman. Thus she is well prepared to write about the problems of contemporary women. This she does with freshness, frankness and thoroughness. The book covers such diverse material as female problems, personal and social, the war, servantless homes, unions and management problems, race and fascism, in brief the whole gamut of modern living. Women will not put the book down if they pick it up. The same applies to men.

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Southern Song

FOR MY PEOPLE. By MARGARET WALKER, With A Foreword By STEPHEN VINCENT BENET. Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn., Fourth Printing, 1943. 58 pp., $2.00.

We wish the Rankins', Dixons', Talmadges' and chanters of hymns of hate and "white supremacy" might read this slender volume of poems to catch a glimpse of what goes on in the mind of a sensitive, modern and cultured young Negro. Perhaps their minds are too warped with gall and hate to be moved by these words of limpid beauty and power. Rather let those who have an open mind to receive truth from whatever source turn these pages. They were written "For my people everywhere. . . . For my playmates in the clay and dust and sand of Alabama backyards. . . . For my people thronging 47th Street in Chicago and Lenox Avenue in New York and Rampart Street in New Orleans . . ." but they belong to all of us.

> "Let a new earth rise. Let another world be born. Let a bloody peace be written in the sky. Let a second generation full of courage issue forth; let a people loving freedom come to growth. Let a beauty full of healing and a strength of final clenching be the pulsing in our spirits and our blood. Let the martial songs be written, let the dirges disappear. Let a race of men now rise and take control."

Cooley Committee Reported Ready to Kill FSA

In one of its last acts before recessing for the Christmas holidays, Congress provided funds for continuance of the Farm Security Administration through June 30th, 1944, but the future of the agency and the nature of its program remains to be decided.

Program Curtailed

For the balance of this fiscal year, the program will be greatly curtailed. The President's original appropriations request was for $36,607,573 for operating expenses in the rehabilitation program and an authorization of $97,500,000 for rehabilitation loans and $30,000,000 for farm ownership loans. A compromise measure granted the request for farm ownership loans but reduced the appropriation for operating expenses to $20,000,000 and the rehabilitation loan authorization to $60,000,000. The FSA was authorized to expend its operating funds during the first third of the year at a rate exceeding one third of the total appropriation made at that time.

The demand for FSA loans and services was so great that by October 1 the agency faced the necessity of reducing its staff, already reduced from 17,000 to 10,000 in two years, by more than half unless a supplemental appropriation were made.

Late in December Congress made an additional appropriation of $6,500,000 for operating expenses, and increased the rehabilitation loan authorization by $7,500,000.

40,000 Farm Families Ignored

The President's original request would have provided funds for operating loans to about 60,000 new borrowers after meeting the needs of families already on the program. The funds appropriated by Congress will provide for only about 20,000 new loans.

Meanwhile the Cooley Committee is reported to be considering legislation which would consolidate all direct loans (FSA, Emergency Seed and Feed, RACC), to farmers in one agency to be administered as a part of the Farm Credit Administration, thus eliminating the Farm Security Administration as a separate program. This follows recommendations of the American Farm Bureau Federation and the proposal has been agreed to by the testimony of Governor A. G. Black of the Farm Credit Administration.

Farmers Union For Enlarged FSA

The proposal has been opposed by the National Farmers Union which has made the counter-proposal that direct loans be consolidated with a greatly enlarged Farm Security program, but that it be in an independent agency and not under FCA. Secretary of Agriculture Wickard also has argued that the two programs be kept separate.

The main issue is whether loans and services to small farmers will be administered by the agency which has demonstrated its interest in strengthening the family-type farm or by an agency which administers credit secured by property, rather than security based on people and their ability to better themselves and has never effectively reached the working farmers as such.

C. B. Baldwin, now assisting Sidney Hillman in the CIO Political Action Committee, has been succeeded as FSA Administrator by Frank W. Hancock, former Congressman from North Carolina. Mr. Hancock has taken the position that the FSA is needed for the preservation of the family-type farm.

Southern Cities Have Lowest Wages-Highest Increases In Food Costs

The South with the lowest wage scale also has the highest increase in retail food costs. Department of Labor figures released December 16 show that retail food costs in the entire Nation increased 0.7% from Oct. 19 to Nov. 16, 1943. Of the 19 Southern cities listed, all but 5 had higher increases than the National average. Baltimore with an increase of 3.1% had the highest increase in the Nation.

Between Jan. 14, 1941, and Nov. 16, 1943, retail food costs increased throughout the Nation on an average of 40.4%. All but one Southern city, Houston, of the 19 listed, had increases above the National average. Of the 56 cities listed in the entire United States, 16 showed increases of 45% or over, and all but 3 of these 16 were in the South. Knoxville led the Nation with an increase of 63.5%, bearing out the charge of the Knoxville Consumers' League that OPA prices had completely broken down. Memphis was 2nd in the Nation with 52.8%; Norfolk 3rd, 51.1%. Atlanta increased 45.8%; Baltimore 45.5%; Jacksonville 46.7%; Richmond 45.7%; Savannah 49.7%; Winston-Salem 47.5%; Birmingham 47.6%; Mobile 48.5%; Dallas 46.9%; New Orleans 47.1%.

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Labor Unites For Political Action

LOUISVILLE

The Louisville Industrial Union Council, representing 20,000 CIO members, has set up a Political Action Committee of 3 to head a drive for registration to vote in 1944: Joseph Cannon, CIO Reg. Dir.; Joseph W. Hellinger, M&SW; C. H. Van Tyne, UER&MW. The CIO is supporting the anti-poll tax bill, the Administration's subsidy program and an equitable tax program.

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DALLAS

The Dallas United Legislative Conference composed of representatives of AFL and CIO is staging a campaign for the payment of poll taxes preliminary to 1944 elections. A recent meeting was addressed by W. J. Harris, AFL Central Trades Council, president; A. J. Pickett, AFL Railway Clerks; Ruth Koenig, Intl. Longshoremen and Warehousemen CIO; Emmett Conarty, Intl. Secy.-Treas., Oilworkers' Union. The steering committee is headed by Fred Wilson, AFL Stereotypers, and Latane Lambert, Amalgamated Clothing Workers.